

REMARKS

This is response to the Final Office Action mailed December 7, 2005. The Examiner's comments have been carefully considered.

The Final Office Action mailed on December 7, 2005, indicates that claims 1-41 and 59-122 were pending in the application. Claims 2-11 and 59-122 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected, while claims 13-41 have been objected to. The Examiner indicates, in paragraph 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 13-41 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In order to respond to the Final Office Action, claims 13 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice and rewritten as new claims 123 and 124. This should result in claims 14 and 16-41 now being in condition for allowance. It is not clear, however, why claims 23-41 have been objected to since these claims depend directly or indirectly on allowed claim 2, and, therefore, should be allowed with the allowance thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to these claims is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1 and 12, these claims have been amended to clarify that the frame defines a longitudinal axis and a focal point substantially along the longitudinal axis. The light emitting diodes are defined as having at least one diode skewed to the mounting surface that directs the beam of light generally along the longitudinal axis beyond the focal point. This is fully disclosed in the subject application and illustrated, for example, in Fig. 15, 17 and 18.

This feature is clearly distinguishable from the prior art of record. Thus, in Polidor et al. '417 and Momot et al. Publication No. 2002/0048170, the substrates or surfaces on which the LEDs are mounted do not define a fixed hollow volume, as required by claims 1 and 12, but, instead, are flat sheets or panels. As such, these mounting surfaces do not define a focal point or, if they do, such focal point is at infinity.

In Arnold '223, which has been previously discussed, the hollow volume is substantially circular or spherical in shape, and all the LEDs are mounted such that their optical axes are normal or perpendicular to the spherical surface. Accordingly, the LEDs are not skewed to the mounting surface such that a beam is directed generally along the longitudinal axis beyond the focal point.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of records now clearly and patentably distinguish over the applied art. Early allowance and issuance is, accordingly, respectfully solicited.

Applicant hereby petitions that any and all extensions of time of the term necessary to render this response timely be granted. Costs for such extensions and any other fees that may be due with this paper that are not fully covered by an enclosed check may be charged to our account no. 10-0100.

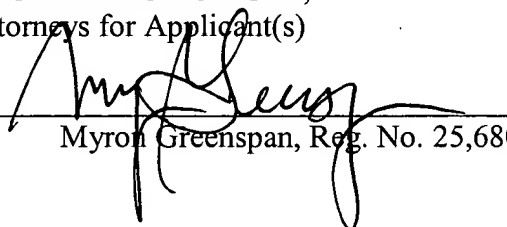
Date: 3/7/06

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Respectfully submitted,

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